



Extract from a letter from F.M. Sir John French.
"Sir John has received most satisfactory reports of the work done up to now by the Society."—[See page 9.]

THE ARMY VETERINARY CORPS

ITS WORK AND ITS NEEDS; AND HOW IT IS HELPED BY
THE R. S. P. C. A.

An Appeal to all Horse Lovers.

By JOHN GALSWORTHY.

Honour to the Army Veterinary Corps!

AS far back as October 16th they had already "dealt with some 27,000 horses . . . saving the lives of many who would have been condemned as incurable even in times of peace." "The care of the horses has been remarkable all through the war." "There is not the slightest doubt that this corps is performing great work." "The work of the Army Veterinary Corps may have a very important bearing on the campaign." "Over 50 per cent. of the horses that have passed through their hands have been rendered sound and well." On all sides they are praised. They are a splendid corps doing splendid work. Please help them!

By a letter, dated November 5th, the Army Council informed the R.S.P.C.A. that they would be grateful for "further assistance in helping to provide trained veterinary subordinates who are willing to enlist in the Army Veterinary Corps." This assistance—the only private help allowed by the Army Council for British horses at the front—has been, and is being, afforded. But the Army Council further informed the R.S.P.C.A. that they approved of "a fund being started by the Society for the purchase of hospital requisites for sick and wounded horses."

This fund—the only fund approved by the Army Council—is now organised, as many will already be aware, at the R.S.P.C.A., 105, Jermyn Street, London, S.W., under the chairmanship of the Duke of Portland, and is working as auxiliary to the Army Veterinary Corps, under the control of the War Office. Its aim is to augment the supply of medical stores, horse shelters, hospital and stable requisites—such as rugs (old or new), woollen bandages, head collars, halters; and to

provide horse-drawn ambulances, motor lorries, and, if possible, motor ambulances. Twenty-five horse-drawn ambulances and twenty-five motor lorries are specially required at once. The ambulances are very badly wanted, to convey from railway stations horses kicked and lamed *en route*, and horses not injured severely enough to necessitate their being destroyed, but suffering from wounds that prevent their walking from the station to the convalescent farms. Motor lorries are needed for rapid conveyance of fodder from the base hospitals where the stores are kept, to the convalescent farms and fields miles away. This is the greatest need at the moment: for with winter coming on the horses cannot graze, and there is so much more feeding to be done.

Since this war began most of us, even those who are fondest of animals, must have felt so overwhelmed by thought of



A.V.C. Men at Work.

R.S.P.C.A. Inspectors as members of that Corps.

human suffering, so anxious to relieve it, that we have been almost unable to spare sympathy and help for the horses. Man has only a certain capacity for feeling, and that has been strained almost to breaking-point by human needs. But now that the wants of our wounded are being seen to with hundreds of motor ambulances, and hospitals fully equipped; now that the situation is more in hand, we can surely turn a little to the companions of man. They, poor things, have no option in this business; they had no responsibility, however remote and indirect, for its inception; get no benefit out of it of any kind whatever; know none of the sustaining sentiments of heroism; feel no satisfaction in duty done. They do not even—as the prayer for them untruly says—“offer their guileless lives for the well-being of their countries.” They know nothing of countries; they do not offer themselves. Nothing so little pitiable as that. They are pressed into this service which cuts them down before their time. We do violence to horses by employing them at all in this deadly business. Our Army knows that. These are the words of an R.S.P.C.A. Inspector at the front: “Whenever possible the injured are sent back to the transport behind to be treated by veterinary surgeons and also rested, but if they are too bad they are shot at once. Hundreds of merciful bullets have put a great number out of misery, and it is certainly not the fault of the British Army that they should suffer as they do, for the soldier thinks a great deal of his horse out here. Our motto is: ‘Horse first, man afterwards.’”

That’s fine! And though we, who are not fighting, cannot feel that the horse comes first, we might at least “think a great deal” of him, poor beast!

It is not for me to waste the time of common sense by dwelling on the practical advantages of saving as many horses as we can. This is a war of exhaustion, and economy in horses is simply vital, as it is in everything else. It is not for me to waste the time of pity by dwelling on the sufferings these dumb things have to undergo. Any child can imagine them.

The Army Veterinary Corps have made a splendid start both in humanity and economy. Now that they have asked for funds to carry on and perfect their work, let us give, and freely, whether we love animals or no. It is a duty to the country to help save our horses. It is a duty to ourselves to do what we can to lessen their sufferings, and to palliate the shame of having to employ them at all in the hellish carnival of war.

Forty to fifty pounds will provide a horse-drawn ambulance for horses; six hundred pounds a motor lorry for forage. But any sum, however small, will do something to help the country and to lighten the miseries of these best servants of men.

This is a work of prudence, of justice, and of mercy.

Give, I beg you, GIVE!

THE A.V.C. AT HOME.

IN view of the general lack of definite knowledge as to the treatment of sick and wounded horses at the front, some brief description of the work undertaken by the military authorities may be of particular interest.

Horses play so important a part in warfare that, from a merely combatant point of view, their safeguarding as much as possible is necessary. There is, too, the humane aspect of their treatment. Though the stress and unforeseen happenings of campaigning do not permit of the same consideration for the avoidance of suffering as in time of peace, there is a very real desire among soldiers to spare their horses hardship, and to minimise for them, as far as possible, the horrors of battle.

Prior to, and during, the South African War there was no satisfactory organisation for the care of horses on active service.

The experience of the South African campaign showed clearly the disadvantages of the old system, and in 1903 the Army Veterinary Corps was established. In this new corps a complete personnel was appointed. The veterinary surgeons had the assistance of trained non-commissioned officers and men to carry out, in an efficient manner, the work hitherto attempted by the farriers.

The Commissioned officers of the corps are qualified veterinary surgeons, who have passed four years at a veterinary college or university. These do not pass into the Army through Woolwich or Sandhurst, but sit for a special examination after their collegiate course. On joining the corps each under-

goes three years' probation, during which the fitness of the young officer for his career is decided.

The non-commissioned officers and men are mostly transferred from cavalry regiments. After joining, they are on probation for three months, during which they receive a course of instruction in Stable Management, Foods and Feeding, and Care of the Sick and Wounded. After this, if approved for the A.V.C., they are transferred to the various veterinary hospitals, where their instruction is continued for two years."

THE A.V.C. AT THE FRONT.

"The Veterinary organisation of the Expeditionary Force is most complete," says a writer in *The Globe*. "The arrangements made for the care of the horses are almost as elaborate as those provided for the wounded troops. Every mounted unit of any size in the field is provided with a veterinary officer, who is not only responsible for the treatment of the sick animals, but for advising the commanding officer on all matters relating to the well-being of the horses under his charge. The detection and control of contagious disease is one of his most important duties. This officer is assisted by a trained staff attached to the unit, and provided with all the necessary veterinary medicines, instruments and dressings, in the form of a veterinary chest for himself, and small chests and wallets for his subordinates.

"To every division and cavalry brigade is attached a mobile veterinary section. Each consists of one officer and 22 trained men of the Army Veterinary Corps, all mounted and fully equipped with all the necessary veterinary means. Their function is to relieve the field units of all (other than trivially) sick and inefficient animals. They are the connecting link between the field units and the veterinary hospitals. The patients they obtain, after proper first aid treatment, are conveyed to the nearest railhead and dispatched by train to the advanced veterinary hospital, the mobile veterinary section finding the party required to attend to the patients' wants during the railway journey.

"Then come the veterinary hospitals, ten in number, and situated at different points along the line of communication. Each is organised to deal with 1,000 cases, and has a staff of officers and trained men of the Army Veterinary Corps. All necessary veterinary medicines, instruments, and surgical means for dealing with the patients are provided. The cases are received into the advance

hospital, and from there, after treatment, drafted, according to their severity, to the hospitals further down the line. The cases which end in complete recovery are discharged to the remount department for re-issue to the fighting troops, but many horses discharged from hospital are found to require further rest before they are fit for re-issue. These are drafted to the convalescent horse depot.

"The horses are treated with just the same care and skill as is shown to wounded soldiers. They are given chloroform and other anaesthetics before they are operated upon by skilled officers. The Convalescent Horse Depot has been established in one of the healthiest places in France, and it covers an area of 20 miles. Here the patients run to grass in small well-sheltered paddocks, receiving extra feed, and they are under the supervision of officers of the Army Veterinary Corps. By this means a very large number of animals, which would otherwise be lost to the State, are saved, and again become thoroughly efficient troop horses.

About 27,000 animals have already been treated in the hospitals, the majority of which have been returned to the remount department for service in the firing line, and a very large proportion of the remainder are now getting well in the convalescent farms. This work is not only humane, but is of great economic value; for these horses comprise some of the best in the country, and if lost could not be replaced."



R.S.P.C.A. Inspector at the front.
An A.V.C. Sergeant and his patient.

THE A.V.C. OVERSEAS.

REPORTS OF EYE WITNESSES AT THE FRONT.

"The French," says the special correspondent in *The Times* of October 15th, "have an enormous admiration for our equipment. . . . The guns, and particularly the horses, are the admiration of everyone."

"No doubt the excellent condition of these animals is in large measure due to the services rendered by the Army Veterinary Corps. It is the particular care of the Veterinary Corps to collect wounded and abandoned horses belonging to both armies. These horses are examined; the less seriously injured are operated on on the spot, while those who are badly wounded, or are sick, are sent away to a regular system of base hospitals."

"Hundreds of horses have been saved, and the work of the Army Veterinary Corps may have a very important bearing on the campaign. It has been computed that every Uhlan and French cavalryman has, on the average, ridden three horses since the beginning of the war. The Germans have stripped Northern France of useful horses, and chargers are not made in a day. The German, too, has not had the time, or perhaps the means, to pay much attention to his mount. In very many instances he has had to feed it on green food, with the result that glanders and other diseases have set in, and hundreds of horses have been lost. I have seen many horses lying by the wayside as they fell, with distended bellies, showing only too clearly the manner of food they had been living on."

"One could nearly always tell a dead French horse by the fact that its ribs could be counted. The rider had not made the fatal mistake of feeding it on beetroots and green corn, but had literally ridden it to death. Any horse, therefore, which can be saved now by our Army Veterinary Corps may be worth six later."

"During the whole course of the war," writes Mr. Beach Thomas, in the *Daily Mail* of October 16th, "especially lately, one arm of the Service into which I have been able to get some insight has surpassed itself. It is the Veterinary Corps, which was first formed after the South African War. This corps has dealt with some 27,000 horses, probably more, and it has saved the lives of hundreds of animals, of which many would have been

condemned as incurable even in time of peace. The other day one of the quite young hands picked up somehow a German horse with three bullets in its shoulder; and rather against his superior's advice operated successfully, extricated the bullets, and in a surprisingly short time the horse was as fit as it could be. Some of these young men have indeed developed a real talent for quick and efficient surgery even under fire. Some have also taken up the Wild West game of catching and carrying off German horses, sometimes by single-handed expeditions in the gloaming."

"This solitary hunting is, however, off the proper line of the veterinary surgeon; and it would be a pity to let anything at all conceal the fact of the really magnificent and humane work done by the corps. By a system of field hospitals and of base hospitals all along the line they are enabled to deal with nearly all the horses that come in wounded; and as they are treated they are distributed to homes very much as the men. There is one large home, very far in the rear, for horses which are judged to need a long convalescence."

"The care of the horses has been remarkable all through the war. The Germans must have lost four horses to our one simply from want of care in unsaddling and removing harness and feeding. But, apart from this, the Veterinary Corps have saved their thousands by medical skill and organisation. It is hard work, but they have their rewards in many amusing incidents. One is worth mention. A young soldier brought in one day a German horse of which he was very proud. 'You couldn't breed a better in Ireland' he said, 'and every bit of leather is new.' The veterinary sergeant, even before he saw the marks, recognised the horse as English. It had been lost and taken by the Germans three days earlier, and had now come back with brand-new saddle and bridle and only a scratch to be healed. Incidentally the incident suggests the astonishing perfection of German equipment. It is only in human—and perhaps humane—things that they fail. That horses and men are not machines escapes them."

LETTERS FROM R.S.P.C.A. INSPECTORS AT THE FRONT.

The following letters will be of exceptional interest to animal lovers, coming as they do from inspectors of the R.S.P.C.A. who are now serving with the Forces abroad.



The Patient at the Front.

A chloroformed horse about to settle gently down before an operation.

They emphasise the good work being done by the Army Veterinary Corps and, *inter alia*, show that the inspectors of the Society are upholding, in war, the reputation for energy and humanity which they deservedly enjoy in times of peace.

From Private H. C. B., Army Vet. Corps.

"We are very busy with our four-footed patients, wounded, lame and sore, pitiful sights some of them are, poor things, but how patiently they stand to have their wounds attended to. One realises fully the horrors of war when we are in contact with our dumb friends. But you can rest assured that all is being done that is possible to relieve their sufferings. We are the most advanced hospital, and expect to be moving nearer the firing line shortly."

From Private W. R., Army Veterinary Corps.

"We have a great number of horses in hospital, about 800 I believe—wounded, sore, lame, and no pains are spared in trying to alleviate their sufferings, and making them as comfortable as it is possible to do. Our Officer Commanding is a splendid man for both horses and men under his command."

From Sergt. A., 35th Brig. Ammunition Col.

"I am pleased to say the horses in our Army out here are receiving every possible care and attention. Also, now the cold weather has set in, our horses are getting rugs, which, when taken into consideration for active service, is good."

From Sergeant B.

"During the early stages of the war when the British Expeditionary Force was

called upon to take the brunt of the German advance, and retreat before it towards Paris, there were, naturally, many instances of horses having to be ridden with sore backs, caused by hard riding. It was practically impossible to avoid this, as the closeness of overwhelming numbers of the enemy gave the British Force little or no rest, and a number of sore backs was the result. Wherever possible everything was done to minimise suffering. In cases of sore back the blankets were folded to remove as much pressure as possible from the affected part. In the case of transport horses, harness galls, etc., were relieved by paddings of sheep's wool, and, when possible, a change of horses. Horses wounded by shell or rifle fire were always destroyed, and the men sent back on the motor supply lorries, which were usually in touch with us. I saw many instances, when the enemy have been hot on our heels, and their guns keeping up a continuous shell fire, of wounded horses having been mercifully destroyed by a farrier sergeant or some other N.C.O. shooting them by means of their revolvers. When the German advance was turned into a retreat, every attention was then given to all horses suffering from saddle or harness galls. Fresh horses were procured in a good many cases, and the affected ones were attended to or destroyed, according to the nature of their ailment. Lameness, however slight, was usually met by the animal being destroyed. After the battle of the Aisne there was formed in each regiment of my brigade a column, called B. Echelon. This echelon consisted of officers' spare horses and sick horses, and it marched along in rear of the brigade and always moved at a walk.



R.S.P.C.A. Float at the Front.

To sum up in a few words—my idea of the treatment of animals by the British Army, as far as I have seen, is that they are treated in the most humane manner possible under adverse circumstances. Acts of cruelty on the part of the men are very rare, as they realise very clearly that in many tight corners their horses are their best friends. There are isolated cases of men kicking or otherwise ill-treating their horses, but these, when detected, are very severely dealt with. To quote an instance within my knowledge. A driver in a battery of artillery was court-martialled for striking his horse over the nose. The Court found him guilty, and sentenced him to a term of imprisonment with hard labour."

From Sergt. H., Army Veterinary Corps.

"To give you an outline of my work in France.

"At this horse dépôt I am in sole charge of over 500 horses, which are in various paddocks, each horse having three-quarters of an acre of grazing. My first paddock consists of horses which have been wounded or injured. I have men to dress their injuries. My next paddock is what we call the debility paddock, that is, when the poor animals pass out of the dressers' hands, I transfer them to paddock No. 2. I then see that every animal has extra food, and when they are in a fair condition I transfer them to the other paddocks. When they are quite fit I pick the best out, and they are examined by a veterinary surgeon. No horse is sent back to the fighting line unless it is quite sound."

From Corporal H.R., 1st Life Guards.

"... We had that day about a dozen or so horses either killed or wounded. We got out of the way of the guns and formed up. Each farrier then goes round his troop and inspects each horse, or asks each man if his horse is all right, as the first thing for a soldier to do after he dismounts is to have a good look at his horse to see if it is all right; then if a horse is badly wounded, the farrier-major uses his discretion and shoots it with his revolver. If the vet. is there he does it. Each farrier carries a veterinary chest with him, which consists of instruments for sewing wounds, also forceps and antiseptics for running wounds, etc. This chest consists of everything up-to-date. The wounded horses are sent to a temporary rest camp, and then sent by rail to the nearest veterinary base. I think the horses are well cared for and get the best of treatment. Sometimes it is very difficult, as on November 1st the 'Jack Johnson' shells were blowing up the

road we were going over, and so you have to wait until after the firing has subsided before you can see after the horses, some of which are mortally wounded, etc. The farrier then goes and puts an end to their pain. I remember an officer of ours one day had his horse shot under him. He was picked up by someone else and taken into safety, but as soon as it got dark that night he went out in search of his horse, to make sure that it was dead. He walked over two miles and when he got there he found that it had been killed outright."

From Sergeant W., Army Veterinary Corps.

"You will be very pleased to know that the sick and wounded horses are receiving every care and attention that it is humanly possible to give them under the circumstances, and those that are too far gone are at once put out of their misery."

From J. H.

"At . . . Veterinary Base, where I was attached to the A.V.C. (No. 7 and 8 Section), I had an opportunity of seeing something of the treatment of animals sick in camp, and I can say that everything possible is done for the care and treatment of them, and those which are too far gone are mercifully destroyed."

From Sergeant K., Army Veterinary Corps.

"I have been out here collecting wounded and stray horses; some of them were in a terrible condition. We have in hospital, where I am at present, nearly 3,000; half of these are now fit for work again—a large number will be sent out to graze—and the remainder are under treatment. All horses that are in a condition past remedy we destroy. There is not the slightest doubt that this corps is performing great work, both from a humane and financial point of view, as otherwise a large number of these horses would never be treated."

From H. C. H., 3rd Coldstream Guards.

"Our horses are in fine condition, considering the vast amount of work they have had to do. We have destroyed several with only sprains and kicks, rather than travel them. I myself have shot two, and also assisted in the treatment of sores, which I am pleased to say are not so frequent now as at first, the cause of which was the new harness. Others that have been hit badly have been sent down to 'Vet. Corps Base,' others we have attended to ourselves, and I think the horses used by our troops out here are in a better condition, taking them on the whole, than the French and Belgian."

From the foregoing we may surely see that at last people have come to realise the value of the horse in warfare, not only as a most important factor in the success of a campaign, but also a sentient creature for whose comfort, health, and well-being every care should be taken. Horses are not only essential for cavalry and for despatch riding, they are needed for drawing the guns and ammunition, and, which is perhaps of even more importance, for bringing food and baggage for the troops. Motor traction can in many ways replace the horse, but across rough country or along broken and bad roads it is the horse alone that can bring the supplies. And so horses in war—regrettable as it is that these fine animals should have to be so utilized and sacrificed—are at last, and as far as possible, coming into their own, for, with a special corps to look after them, they are within sight of being treated on a level with their human friends and foes. Alas, that the time has not yet come when they too are recognized as deserving protection under the flag of the Red Cross Society. At the close of this war that important recognition, which has been accepted, in principle, on the plan suggested by the R.S.P.C.A., by the British Government, will surely receive international sanction. And why should it be withheld? Everyone recognizes the intelligence of the horse: should there be any that still doubt

this, the following true story sent by a correspondent at the front, must without a doubt prove our point. ;

"I should like to tell you this true story not an 'Extra Special,' writes a soldier at the front:

"We were in the thick of the fighting at Westroosebeke, dismounted, and a mile and a half from our horses. After doing a deal of damage with our maxims and rifle fire, the enemy's shells found us and we had to retire. One of my chums lost his horse, so jumped on to the horse of a man who had been killed.

"Three days afterwards we were at Zounebeke, eight miles further on, and resting for a while in a wood. I was sitting beside my chum when his old horse suddenly walked up to us and poked his old master in the back, as much as to say 'I've been looking for you.' He looked none the worse for his three days' absence."

GIVE, I BEG YOU, GIVE!

Until the time comes when the Red Cross of Geneva protects human and animal combatants alike, we, who have made laws to protect animals in peace time, must take all care to protect them also in war time. It is the privilege, therefore, of every animal lover to take a share in the work entrusted to the R.S.P.C.A. by the British Army Council, to



In the King's Service.

R.S.P.C.A. Inspectors, as members of the Army Veterinary Corps, supervising the entraining of horses from a Convalescent Horse Depot back to the remount department.

help the Army Veterinary Corps in its splendid humane and economic work. The horses of the British Army are an integral part of the British Army itself, and the care which the soldiers give to their horses shows that they value their co-operation and their friendship. We all want to help the brave men who are fighting for their country's honour and, having helped them to the best of our ability, are we going to neglect their horses—surely not?



Photo Copyright]

[L. N. A.]

First Aid to a Wounded Horse.

A Snapshot from the Front.

The R.S.P.C.A. Fund for Sick and Wounded Horses is the only Fund authorised to help the British Army Veterinary Corps which needs—

among other requisites for the 10 hospitals already existing:

- (1) Shelters and hospitals to accommodate horses under treatment.
- (2) 30 cwt. motor lorries for the veterinary hospitals.
- (3) Motor wagons, eight British, two Indian.
- (4) Horse ambulances for the Convalescent horse depots and veterinary hospitals.

- (5) Combined corn crushers and chaff cutters with petrol engines.
- (6) 5,000 rugs, old or new, if in good condition.
- (7) 5,000 head collars.
- (8) 5,000 halters.

Besides bandages, poultice boots, and other veterinary supplies.

Many of these requisites have already been provided but much is still required, and, as the war continues, more will be wanted, because the number of the hospitals will be greatly increased.

A large sum of money is needed if the work undertaken by the Committee is to be carried out successfully. **They, therefore, appeal, with confidence, to horse-lovers and horse-owners to aid them to raise the sum of £30,000, to carry out this very necessary and humane work, which has the approval and financial support of H.M. Queen Alexandra.**

WHAT THE R.S.P.C.A. FUND IS DOING. It is working with the approval of the **British** War Office, in conjunction with the **British** Army Veterinary Corps, for the Horses of the **British** Army, and is **the only fund that has been authorised for this purpose.** It is supplementing the provision already made by the **British** War Office, and is supplying motor lorries, horse ambulances, corn crushers and chaff cutters driven by petrol engines, rugs, halters, bandages, and other veterinary requisites: it is also providing a Veterinary Hospital to accommodate **1,000** horses, and shelters to hold **500** horses. **The R.S.P.C.A.** has in addition trained and sent to the British Army Veterinary Corps, for enlistment, nearly 200 men, including many of the Society's own Inspectors, and is giving special lectures on the care and treatment of horses to N.C.O.'s and other soldiers. **The R.S.P.C.A.** has also helped **the British Army Horse at home**, by supplying ambulances, rugs, humane killers, veterinary stores and medicaments to regiments all over the country. It, therefore, deserves, and certainly needs, all the financial support of the **British** horse-loving and charitable public.

Send a contribution now, and endeavour to give further help directly and through your friends, for, during the progress of the war, the stock of requisites will need replenishing and repairing.

The R.S.P.C.A. Fund for Sick and Wounded Horses.

APPROVED BY THE ARMY COUNCIL AS AN AUXILIARY TO THE
ARMY VETERINARY CORPS.

Important Testimony to its Value.

1. Message from F.M. SIR JOHN FRENCH, Commander in Chief of the British Expeditionary Force in France.

In a letter to the Duke of Portland, Chairman of the R.S.P.C.A. Fund, dated Feb. 14th, 1915, Brig.-General the Hon. W. Lambton, Military Secretary at General Headquarters of the British Army in the Field, writes:

"Sir John French has requested me to thank you for your letter of the 28th January, describing the work already done by the R.S.P.C.A. for the Army, and what it proposes for the future.

"Sir John has received most satisfactory reports of the work done up to now by the Society, and has no doubt that its efforts for the care of the sick and wounded horses will have a most beneficial effect in shortening the period of sickness, and in reducing the wastage of horseflesh in the Army in France."

2. Commendation of the splendid work done by the R.S.P.C.A. Fund, as publicly expressed by the well-known sportsman and horse-lover, The EARL OF LONSDALE, who has recently visited the A.V.C. Hospitals.

In a letter to the *Daily Telegraph*, dated Feb. 13th, Lord Lonsdale describes the result of his observations at the front. He writes:

"It would be gratifying to some who have so willingly lent their aid, financially and otherwise, in the interests of animals at the front, that I should be in a position to testify to **the remarkable, and to me extraordinary, Army Veterinary Corps organisation, that exists at the front in the interests of animals.**

"Owing to the kindness of the authorities, I was allowed to traverse a considerable amount of country occupied by the English, and, owing equally to the kindness of the French authorities, I was allowed to carry out the same investigation in France. I was aided in every conceivable way by the kind-

ness of those in authority, and I had the opportunity of inspecting the whole of the horses of the three Indian Cavalry Divisions, and most of the transport horses, and, with certain exceptions, it would be no exaggeration to say that I saw the bulk of the horses at the front.

"I had the opportunity of going to the second lines ("animal lines"), and thence to the third and fourth lines and more southern bases, and I saw every remount and hospital base. I think, therefore that I am fully entitled to express an opinion as to the work of the Army Veterinary Corps and the Remount Department.

"I had heard much of the difficulties and sufferings connected with the animals, but **I have not the slightest hesitation in assuring the whole of the English horse-loving world that I do not believe, in all the various departments of the Army, there is any branch of it that deserves more credit, and shows more astonishing foresight in the preparation, alleviation of suffering, and general superintendence of the animal than do the Army Veterinary Corps and the Remount Department.**

"I was enormously impressed by the health and vitality of all the horses that I saw.

"At No. 1 base I found hospitals that had been built with stable shelters for the horses, constructed of iron. These had been easily erected and are divided up into sections, and every hospital within a certain distance from the front is calculated and based on the thousand horse system. In other places the ground had been most magnificently selected. Nothing could be more advantageous in the interests of the animal.

"I found that the veterinary surgeons, some of whom I knew, were most capable. The dressers were all that could be desired. The operating theatres were arranged as perfectly as could be done in our own City of London. The instruments, medicaments, and everything necessary for the respective hospitals were of the finest quality, and, to my great surprise, up to strength for all requirements, and most fully equipped.

"There are, of course, many cases of suffering—shrapnel wounds, sore backs, &c.

but the principal injuries were foot ones, probably produced by nails causing quitters, and the difficulties with lice and mange, but in every case the individual horse was separated and looked after in accordance with its particular malady, and **I did not observe one single instance of neglect throughout the many thousands of horses that I saw.** This, of itself, must be a relief to those, like myself, who are ready and anxious to help all human lives first, and then to turn their attention to the lives and sufferings amongst animals.

"At Gournay, at Forges les Eaux, at Dieppe, at Rouen, and at Havre—all places that I can mention—motor lorries for the transport of horses would be of the greatest possible value.

"I read the Duke of Portland's appeal through the R.S.P.C.A., and I can assure all those who have subscribed, and who are ready and willing to subscribe, that no contribution could be of greater benefit to the English horses at the front than this Fund. The Society is not working as an independent one, but under the supervision and request of the War Office, and the advantages rendered by the Society are marked to a degree. I saw a stable of theirs being built for 1,000 horses at Forges les Eaux; I saw motor lorries supplied by the Society, which are giving the greatest satisfaction. I saw medicaments requisitioned by the Army Veterinary Corps and supplied by this Society, which become of the greatest value, and it is for this reason that I earmark the fact that such an organisation, working under the authorities, and with the supervision of the Army Veterinary Corps, is most satisfactory, and a certain reliable relief for the animal suffering.

"Having said this, I think it is only due to all those in the Veterinary Department and the Remount Department to express the extraordinary energy, the love of the animal, the time, hard work, and forethought displayed by all those connected with these two departments. It certainly was a surprise to me, and I went into every detail, and had every facility granted me, and saw every horse, and I do think that we—the real lovers of animals (if I may so express it), whose interests we have so deeply at heart—should be not only satisfied, but most grateful, too, for the forethought, hard work, and endurance of all officers concerned.

3. Striking Press approval of the work of the R.S.P.C.A. Fund, expressed by the "Daily Telegraph," in a leading article on Feb. 15th.

"FLW indeed are those in this country

who will not have heard with heartfelt satisfaction what Lord LONSDALE had to tell the public in the letter which we printed on Saturday . . . Among the tragedies inseparable from all war, the fearful toll taken of these innocent and devoted servants of man has always been felt by our countrymen, specially tender as they are of the life and wellbeing of animals, as second only to the horror of the loss and ruin of human life in its prime . . . The wastage due to accident, exhaustion, and the many forms of equine sickness upon both sides in this war is the thing that goes to the heart of the animal-lover who knows what the conditions are. None knows them better than Lord LONSDALE; and his recent tour of investigation among our own forces at the front was undertaken, as may be gathered from his letter, in no hopeful spirit . . . Among all the praises given by men of experience and judgment to this or that department of our Army's work, none is higher than that bestowed by Lord LONSDALE upon the organisation and the labours of the Veterinary Corps. His investigation was thorough. He saw most of the horses at the front, and inspected every remount and hospital base.

"It is, without exaggeration, a wonderful story that he unfolds, and it will lighten the hearts of thousands of us who did not dream that, in such a war as this, so much organised energy and devoted service could be spared for the horses of the Expeditionary Force . . . It is the completeness and excellence of the work that most of us, like Lord LONSDALE, will call extraordinary. "No branch of the Service," he declares, "deserves more credit or shows more astonishing foresight than do the Army Veterinary Corps and the Remount Department." He tells us, what many animal lovers will be glad to learn, that those who are disposed to give something for the benefit of horses at the front cannot do better than send a contribution to the R.S.P.C.A., which is working under the supervision and at the request of the War Office. It is a welcome thought that this war, which is being waged by us with far greater consideration for the needs and comforts of the soldier than any in our previous history, will also stand out in respect of the care bestowed upon the animals which, in all military operations, are apt to suffer and be sacrificed in such immense numbers."

4. Extract from a letter from a Private in the Royal Engineers.

"The R.S.P.C.A. has done good work for the horses out here, good luck to them."



Royal Society
FOR THE
Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

The R.S.P.C.A. Fund for Sick and Wounded Horses.

APPROVED BY THE ARMY COUNCIL.

I have much pleasure in enclosing £ : :

as a Donation to the above Fund.

Name
(Mr., Mrs., or Miss).

Address

Date

To E. G. FAIRHOLME, Hon. Secretary,
105, Jermyn Street, London, S.W.

All cheques and postal orders
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The R.S.P.C.A. Fund for Sick and Wounded Horses.

APPROVED BY THE ARMY COUNCIL.

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Examples of What it has Done.

AT HOME.

A Major of the Canadian Division writes: "Thank you very heartily for your gift of 500 loin cloths for our horses. In the inclement weather we are at present experiencing these will undoubtedly prove of great benefit to our horses."

An Officer in the — London Brigade R.F.A. writes: "I desire to tender you the very hearty thanks of the Brigade for your Society's most generous gift of material for the protection of our horses during transit. The gift will assist the animals to undergo the long journey by train with the minimum of discomfort."

The Major of a Veterinary Hospital in the Home Counties writes: "I wish to tender to your Society my sincere thanks for the assistance and help they have given me in providing comforts for the sick animals in this hospital during convalescence. I can assure you they are greatly appreciated."

Testimony such as this shows the work of THE R.S.P.C.A. FUND FOR SICK AND WOUNDED HORSES to be absolutely essential. It needs generous support.

WILL YOU HELP IT "TO CARRY ON?"

Then send your contribution to E. G. FAIRHOLME, Hon. Sec. of the Fund,
105, Jermyn Street London, S.W.

An Officer of the — Divisional Train, A.S.C., writes: "My most grateful thanks to you for your splendid gift for the horses in my charge. Colonel — and all the officers very much appreciate your kind help."

AT THE FRONT.

An Officer of the — Divisional Train, A.S.C., writes: "The waterproof cloths are invaluable, I find, and do very much towards keeping the horses fit. I have to thank your Society most sincerely."

A Captain of the Army Veterinary Corps writes: "Thank you for the welcome gift of horse rugs, bandages, etc., received. The rugs will be of great value to us, and will afford comfort to many an animal."

A member of the Army Veterinary Corps writes: "We are pleased with the ambulance sent out, it is an absolute godsend. We have only had it two days, but it has been in constant use since it came, bringing bad cases from various farms to headquarters."